

CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. In a system of operating a wireless handset capable of making clear and secure calls, a method of making a secure call, the method comprising:
- pressing a key for a predetermined amount of time;
 - entering a secure mode if the key is held for a time period greater than the predetermined amount of time; and
 - entering a clear mode if the key is held for a time period less than the predetermined amount of time.
- [c2] 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:
- entering a personal identification number (PIN) to register as a secure user.
- [c3] 3. The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount of time is about two seconds.
- [c4] 4. The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the key is the send/talk key.
- [c5] 5. The method as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the step of entering a PIN number is entered each time the handset is activated.
- [c6] 6. The method as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising disabling the handset if the PIN number is incorrectly entered more than a predetermined number of times.
- [c7] 7. The method as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the predetermined number of times is 7.
- [c8] 8. The method as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the predetermined number of times is 3.
- [c9] 9. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from clear mode to secure mode, the method comprising:
- sending at least one message to request making a secure call; and
 - receiving at least one message authorizing a secure call request.

[c10] 10. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from clear mode to secure mode during a call, the method comprising:
sending at least one message to request going to a secure mode; and
receiving at least one message authorizing a secure call request.

[c11] 11. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from secure mode to clear mode during a call, the method comprising:
sending at least one message to request going to a clear mode; and
receiving at least one message authorizing a clear call request.

[c12] 12. A wireless apparatus configurable to make clear and secure calls, the apparatus comprising:
a user-interface key capable of being depressed; and
a circuit configured to measure the amount of time the user interface key is depressed, wherein the apparatus is configured to operate in a secure mode if the user-interface key is depressed for greater than a predetermined amount of time, and wherein the apparatus is configured to operate in a clear mode if the user-interface key is depressed for less than a predetermined amount of time.

[c13] 13. In a system of operating a wireless handset capable of making clear and secure calls, a method of making a secure call, the method comprising:
means for pressing a key for a predetermined amount of time;
means for entering a secure mode if the key is held for a time period greater than the predetermined amount of time; and
means for entering a clear mode if the key is held for a time period less than the predetermined amount of time.

[c14] 14. The method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:
means for entering a personal identification number (PIN) to register as a secure user.

[c15] 15. The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount of time is about two seconds.

- [c16] 16. The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the key is the send/talk key.
- [c17] 17. The method as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the step of entering a PIN number is entered each time the handset is activated.
- [c18] 18. The method as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising disabling the handset if the PIN number is incorrectly entered more than a predetermined number of times.
- [c19] 19. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from clear mode to secure mode, the method comprising:
means for sending at least one message to request making a secure call; and
means for receiving at least one message authorizing a secure call request.
- [c20] 20. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from clear mode to secure mode during a call, the method comprising:
means for sending at least one message to request going to a secure mode; and
means for receiving at least one message authorizing a secure call request.
- [c21] 21. In a wireless handset capable of operating in clear and secure modes, a method of transitioning from secure mode to clear mode during a call, the method comprising:
means for sending at least one message to request going to a clear mode; and
means for receiving at least one message authorizing a clear call request.

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